

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mob Violence Control

Riots in metropolitan centers call for special police tactics demanding constant alertness, teamwork and knowledge of mob behavior—by William McCann

► THE GROWL of a German police dog, the scream of the siren, the dull thud of wielded weapons—these are sounds of conflict when authorities attempt to maintain order.

A rioting mob, defined as a crowd drawn together by a shared anger or fear, fights its war with rocks, soft drink bottles, knives and occasional Molotov cocktails. The police answer with high pressure hoses, tear gas, nightsticks and well-trained dogs.

Although riots call for different police tactics by cities and circumstances, most city police departments have a general plan of operation for control of riots such as those of recent weeks. In each case that the police, Army or National Guard is involved, a plan of action has to fit the particular problem. In general, however, there are accepted methods of operation.

The special Army techniques for riot control are listed in the Army's Field Manual on "Civil Disturbances and Disasters."

Just as in war, training and intelligence play a very important role in providing measures against civil disturbance. Not only should the police be well disciplined in teamwork, but they should be constantly aware of every grumble or rumor in the community. This was the suggestion of Inspector George P. McManus, New York City Police Department, before the present disturbances.

The overall strategy of the police is "con-

tain, isolate, disperse," in the words of Inspector McManus. Containment and isolation can be accomplished by dividing the trouble spot into zones and keeping all unauthorized traffic out of the area. Next, speedy and impressive show of police force should disperse the mob, which psychologically is cowardly.

Various tactical formations can be used to contain a rioting crowd.

The squad line, a defensive formation, is used for holding back a crowd from gaining access to a particular location. It consists of a line of police standing side by side to hold a surging mob in check.

The squad wedge is an offensive tactic used to split or penetrate a crowd. It is often used for moving short distances into the crowd to remove a prisoner or rescue an injured person. If the crowd is larger, an entire platoon may be used.

Diagonal formations are used to turn a crowd or to move it away from buildings.

An important means of dispersing angry rioters is by subduing their leaders. Leaders and agitators are recognized and taken into custody.

Streams of water and chemical agents such as tear gas are most effective as weapons in the police conflict with dangerous mobs. Only as a last resort should firepower be used in the riot control plans.

A new type of tear gas developed by the British, called CN, a mixture of chlorace-

tophenone and magnesium oxide, is an effective means of halting a violent mob. This chemical cloud has immediate irritating effect on the eyes, nose, throat and chest, although the effect is not lasting.

The use of such anti-riot chemicals depends largely on the location of the disturbance and the weather. If the disturbance is in a residential area or near a hospital or school, chemical agents are not likely to be used. The wind direction and velocity will also determine the use of chemicals.

The mob is described by psychologists as "being not wicked, but lacking in conscience." In the mob there is no time for thinking of rules and laws and morals. For the time being, the whole universe is narrowed down merely to action, violence and relief of emotion.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric City Had Indian 'Woodhenge'

► BRITAIN'S MEGALITHIC MONUMENT Stonehenge may have a North American counterpart at a prehistoric site near St. Louis, Mo.

Recent excavations at "Cahokia," the site of a thriving Indian civilization about 1000 A.D., have uncovered four huge circles of spaced wooden posts.

The discovery of these structures near "Monk's Mount," the largest prehistoric earthwork in North America, was reported by Warren L. Wittry, assistant director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Comparing the post circles, called henges, to Stonehenge, Mr. Wittry emphasized the importance of a post found just five feet east of true center, in "Circle No. 2," discovered by Dr. Robert L. Hall of the Illinois State Museum.

This woodhenge was 410 feet in diameter. "It was a very precise circle," Dr. Wittry reported, "and most certainly was laid out with the use of a peg and rope compass."

An observer at the post in approximately 1000 A.D. would have seen sunrise on mid-summer day, the summer solstice, directly in line with one of the henge posts.

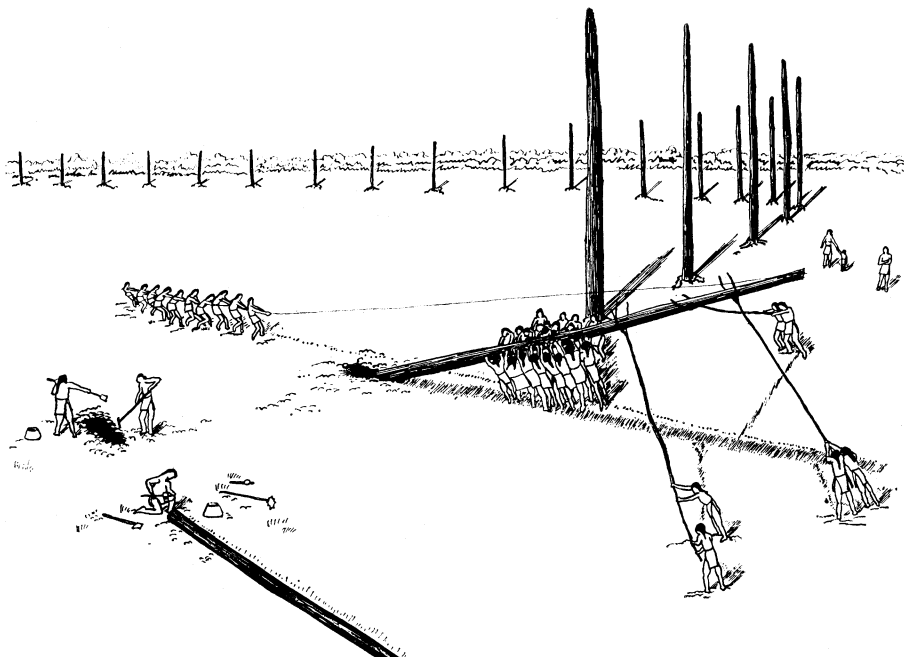
Much of the old controversy about the significance of Stonehenge subsided last winter when computer findings by Dr. Gerald S. Hawkins of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., gave strong support to the theory that the monument, built by a megalithic civilization, was a solar calendar based on complicated geometry.

Such a calendar might be used to predict eclipses of the sun and moon, and to delineate the seasons precisely.

Excavations are continuing for further evidence that these Woodhenges were solar calendars, used by North American Indians as Stonehenge was used by the Britons of the 17th century B.C.

The field work is sponsored by the Highway Salvage Program administered by the Illinois Archaeological Survey, in cooperation with the Illinois Division of Highways and the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads.

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Cranbrook Institute of Science

1000 A.D.—A glimpse into prehistoric America, this artist's sketch depicts the site of Cahokia as it might have appeared when Indians erected the huge circles of wooden posts now being uncovered by archaeologists.